

Senate Resolution 1377

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Smith of the 52nd, Thomas of the 54th, Bulloch of the 11th, Pearson of the 51st and others

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Transportation to designate the Georgia Civil War
2 Heritage Trails; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia contains countless sites relating to the American Civil War
4 era, including antebellum, military, civilian, African American, women's, Reconstruction,
5 and other significant history; and

6 WHEREAS, many of these historic sites would be greatly enhanced, both educationally for
7 our children and as tourist attractions, if properly interpreted on site and adequately
8 promoted; and

9 WHEREAS, by dividing the entire state into six historic regions—the Chickamauga & Atlanta
10 campaigns, the March to the Sea, the pursuit of Jefferson Davis, Wilson's Raid, the Northeast
11 Georgia mountains, and South Georgia's agricultural bounty—a comprehensive history of
12 Georgia's Civil War era can be told through the creation, marketing, and maintenance of six
13 historic driving trails; and

14 WHEREAS, beginning in 2000, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of dedicated Georgians
15 known as Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails began working on the development of six such
16 historic driving trails; and

17 WHEREAS, Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails has already raised over \$1 million in federal
18 grants, plus hundreds of thousands more in both private and public funds, involving well over
19 100 Georgia city and county jurisdictions to date, plus thousands of Georgia's citizens, and
20 has begun the installation of approximately 300 historic interpretive markers, over 2,000
21 roadway directional trailblazer signs, the construction of several roadside parking pull-off
22 areas, and the initial printing of over one million new educational/tourist brochures with an
23 informative website (www.gcwht.org); and

24 WHEREAS, in order for Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails to continue toward full
25 development and success, it needs the continuing cooperation of the Georgia Department of
26 Transportation, of other state agencies, and of local municipalities across the State of
27 Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia, having joined in financially assisting the efforts of Georgia
29 Civil War Heritage Trails, desires to avoid wasting any taxpayer funds by duplicating
30 Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails in any manner or form and to avoid confusing Georgia's
31 citizens, guests, and tourists by the duplication of names, titles, logos, signage, routes, or any
32 other distinguishing characteristics of a Civil War era historic driving trail.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 urge the Georgia Department of Transportation to designate the six driving trails already
35 either in development or planned by Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails as the official
36 state-wide Civil War Era Historic Driving Trails of Georgia.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails should have the
38 authority to plan, construct, and maintain Civil War era historic driving trails upon any
39 roadway in the State of Georgia in collaboration with the Georgia Department of
40 Transportation and local governments.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Georgia
42 Department of Economic Development, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the
43 Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and any other applicable state agencies are
44 encouraged to work cooperatively with Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails state-wide in the
45 latter's creation and placement of appropriate historic interpretive markers, roadway
46 directional trailblazer signage, roadside parking pull-offs, and various marketing materials,
47 including specifically along any state and federal designated highways in all six regions
48 state-wide in which Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails conducts its activities.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Georgia
50 Department of Economic Development, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the
51 Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and any other applicable state agencies are
52 encouraged to work cooperatively with Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails in any other areas
53 of the state not specifically mentioned in this resolution as applicable for Civil War era
54 commemoration activities.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
56 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Georgia Department of Transportation,
57 the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the Georgia Department of Community
58 Affairs, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.